

Surrey

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(Representative of a local organisation)

Comment text:

Related subject: Runnymede, Ottershaw

Joining Ottershaw and Thorpe is geographic nonsense.

I am concerned that local electoral boundaries are primarily determined by the numbers of electors in each area. In 2016(?) Ottershaw Ward was chopped around by the last boundary commission and lost its traditional association with Longcross and Foxhills and was joined with Spinney Hill, Hare Hill (plus a chunk of Row Town) and an entirely arbitrary area of West Addlestone. Since that move OWARA and our local councillors have worked to communicate with the new residents, promote local links and foster a sense of community.

I AM DISTURBED THAT COMMUNITY AND LOCAL COHESION IS NOT A MAJOR CONSIDERATION IN BOUNDARY CHANGES.

I appreciate that what I have described is entirely a local issue - but it clearly demonstrates the disconnect between boundaries and communities that is continued in the boundary review.

If it makes sense for areas to be joined with Ottershaw, creating Ottershaw Ward, then it makes sense for those areas to be included in the same county district.

1. A sense of community would be better fostered by using the ward areas to create SCC electoral areas. What can be done to include the total area of Ottershaw Ward within the new proposed SCC area?
2. The proposal to join Thorpe with Ottershaw and Longcross, creating a totally artificial area, with a motorway barrier between the 2 areas has nothing constructive to commend it. It makes more sense to the new areas should be 'Thorpe and Englefield Green', with the other being 'Virginia Water, Ottershaw and Longcross'.

Please make this major revision to better reflect geographic realities and create a more viable local electoral system, at least as far as Ottershaw is concerned.

Attached Documents:

None attached